SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

5th Year
No
125
December 6
1971

ADDRESS :

HT 1217 B-SVN

C/O

DAZIMINA HANOI

19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN

and all RSVN Embassies, Information Bureaux in foreign countries

2 - MAR 2 ?

1972

editorial

Mr Nixon's Vicious Circle

THE Indochina war is raging with growing ferocity. Three large-scale operations are ravaging the South of the peninsula.

In Cambodia, while Operation "Chenla II" is still going on, the US aggressors have thrown nearly 50,000 Saigon troops into sweeps on areas far inside the Khmer territory. It is the second sizeable Thieu military drive into Cambodia since the March 18, 1970 coup.

In South Viet Nam, parallel to intensified pacification actions everywhere, a 25,000-strong raid on the U Minh - Ca Mau area is in full swing. It is the third major action against this part in more than a year.

In Laos, the Boloven Plateaux and the Plain of Jars are being put to fire and sword.

Never before has the Indochina peninsula known such furious hostilities, as a result of Mr Nixon's aggressive and warlike stubbornness. It shows that his phased pull-out of GI's is not intended to bring the war to an end but to cope with all kinds of difficulties his administration has been faced with. In the process of this operation, fighting is gaining in fierceness and scope, under "Vietnamization" and "Khmerization," the Thieu and Lon-Nol armies are being beefed up and the special war in Laos intensified.

MEANWHILE the Nixon Administration pretends to play the part of a "kibitzer." The American military spokesman in Saigon has declared that the conflict now is the business of the Vietnamese. But the trick is a bit transparent. Everyone is aware that whether "Vietnamized" or "Khmerized," the present war is an American war, waged with Saigon or Phnom Penh soldiery, with US equipment and armoury, tactics and strategies, on US account. Whether the actions are mounted on Vietnamese or Khmer territory, they all seek the same goal, that is the implementation of the Nixon doctrine which uses the Indochinese to fight their own people and continuation of US neo-colonialism in the two countries. For all US affirmations that it is only an outsider, for all its exertions to prove it, no one is left in any doubt about its role as the mastermind.

With his current attempt, the US President wants to test on the field the forces of his "Vietnamization" and "Khmerization" schemes, and to prove that his Saigon and Phnom Penh clients are strong enough to take over the combat duty of the withdrawing Yankees. His frantic attempts to intimidate the Indochinese and to hoodwink the Americans will be of no avail. Saigon's clamour that it holds the initiative of action, and its masters' noisy propaganda on its alleged "encouraging growth" of the Saigon Army cannot conceal their passivity and confusion on the Indochinese battlefields.

Operation "Chenla II," involving 20,000 Phnom Penh troops with a high level of US-Saigon air support on a 42-mile long frontline is only meant to make good its predecessor, Operation "Chenla I" setbacks. Both campaigns directed against Highways 6 and 7 have been tests of the combat value of the client forces the US has been building up since the March putsch as backbone of "Khmerization." They have been also two attempts to bolster up the Lon Nol weakling regime. But "Chenla I" has had a tragic end with 9,000 Phnom Penh and Saigon troops wiped out and the prospects of "Chenla II" do not seem any brighter, with nearly half of the strength fielded knocked out less than three months after its launching. Meanwhile Phnom Penh's outer perimeter has been continuously breached and the capital exposed to the threat of encirclement. The Lon Nol army, still groggy from previous blows, is down again while the Phnom Penh airforce already weakened continues to receive staggering strikes. The quislings' naval bases alarmingly find themselves within the patriots' artillery range.

Instead of improving the predicament resulting from the failure of "Chenla I", "Chenla II" is likely to make bad worse. This will lead to greater dissensions among the Cambodian traitors who will get at each other's throat with more savagery, try more frenziedly to tear off each other's "democratic" mask and finally will let out their shabby puppets' colours.

Most recently the US has had to make another parry with the commitment of nearly 50,000 Saigon troops to Cambodia, in an effort to disengage Phnom Penh and rescue Operation "Chenla II" in high water. It is concurrently aimed at warding off the looming dry season disaster, as puppet General Ngo Quang Truong, commander of Division 9 has let it be known, "the actions have been searches for supply and transport units and attempts to forestall the Liberation forces' dry season activities."

Such shows of strength are just like the last struggles of a beast at bay. The flickering light in Mr Nixon's tunnel with no end in sight is feebly flaring up before dying out. All that augurs ill of his "Vietnamization" and "Khmerization."

The U.S. President has been caught in a vicious circle. The severe setbacks of "Vietnamization" led him into an invasion of Cambodia and a "Khmerized" war. As the latter does not fare any better, he has now to push up "Vietnamization". "Vietnamization" or "Khmerization," all are brain childs of a losing strategist and will remain the bitter fruits of failure.

THE anti-US efforts of the three Indochinese peoples are achieving gains of great strategic purport. After the Highway 9—Khe Sanh, Cua Viet, Tay Nguyen, Tay Ninh, Binh Long blows at "Vietnamization," after beating back two enemy sweeps against U Minh area, the South Vietnamese patriots are girding up to deal effectively with fresh assaults. Following up their Highway 6, Rum Luong etc... successes, the Cambodian Liberation fighters are ready to foil other military adventures of the US, Phnom Penh and Saigon regimes. Their Angkor Krut, Baku, Tuol Leap, Vat Ang Roca devastating battles have been only warning strikes.

The fortune of the war has never been so propitious to the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples. The US and its Indochinese confederates are torn by internal strife, economic and social crises, and under a running fire from their own peoples and mankind. Their current and forthcoming gambles in the field will only worsen their military posture, and political and diplomatic isolation.

In the flush of their successes, the three Indochinese peoples will further close their ranks, step up their resistance, frustrate every US-puppet manœuvre and definitively baffle its "Vietnamization" and "Khmerization."

SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

From Saigon jail, 82 women denounce

POULO CONDOR PRISON, A SLAUGHTER-HOUSE

The Liaison Committee of Prisoners' Relatives *in Saigon recently made public a 25-page letter dated September 20, 1970 of 82 women arbitrarily detained in Saigon prisons to the* Liaison Committee with Prisoners, *the* Movement of Women for the Right to Live, *the* Viet Nam National Students' Union *and other mass organizations in Saigon.*

Following are excerpts of the letter :

"... WE, women inmates of Poulo Condor (Con Son) Island Prison brought back to Chi Hoa jail on August 4, 1970, denounce to the entire people the atrocities committed by jailers Lieng and Tuan against women prisoners and the savage murders by the two chieftains Nguyen Van Ve and Nguyen Van Tran and accomplices.

As the prisoners were still boiling with anger at the heinous massacre perpetrated late in the night by the Duong Ngoc Minh clique, women detainees in the Chi Hoa jail also were immediately removed to Poulo Condor island.

The move was prompted by the US-Saigon intention not to meet the prisoners' legitimate demands they had promised to comply with on November 28, 1969 : release all women prisoners detained without judgement, or whose sentences were due or overdue, and all disabled prisoners or those who suffered from incurable diseases, end all ill-treatment of prisoners, and a better prison regime.

On November 28, 1969 at about midnight, when the women prisoners were sleeping, they were waked up by the shouts of Lieng, the warder of the Chi Hoa jail, through a loudspeaker put up in the middle of the prison courtyard : 'Women prisoners, get ready to move to a new centre where you'll have more comforts as promised.' Then he ordered : 'Field police, help them pack up. And no manhandling!' While the goaler's order was still echoeing within the walls of the prison, buckets of quick lime and tear gas grenades were thrown at the women prisoners despite the latter's calls for help and protests of all the inmates in the prison. About one company of field police, one company of guards and over 200 civil guards, under the direct command of Lieng and Tuan and in the presence of representatives of the 'Ministry of Interior,' the 'General Police Headquarters,' the 'Department of Reeducation,' Tam, the goaler of Tan Hiep prison, and a number of staff members from the Poulo Condor prison again hurled bags of quick lime and tear gas grenades into small cells full of women who suffocated ; some of them fainted, some vomited blood. The thugs beat them with sticks and clubs. At the order : 'Take them out!,' the police and other agents caught hold of the prisoners' hair or arms and dragged them on the floor out of their cells. They took advantage of the opportunity to indulge in indecencies on their bodies. Their cries and wails became more desperate. Their bodies covered with wounds were pulled from their cells, across the sandy courtyard, through many blocks, in and out a series of narrow doors to the gate of the prison, where they were thrown upon one another. Not even the sick and the cripples and a 60-year-old blind woman were spared. Two 2-month-old babies also were choked by the quick lime and tear gas, and it was a miracle that they survived.

At the gate of the prison, the victims were pushed into trucks like beasts. Their clothes were torn and their bodies bleeding. They lay motionless and handcuffed in the vans ; however the guards continued to hit them and spray lime on them. While they were waiting at the airport, the bravos kept brutalizing them till they were thrown into US military planes... GIs at the base came and looked on the scene. They laughed sardonically at the tattered women.

From Chi Hoa jail to Poulo Condor prison the women prisoners went on their back, in other words, they were dragged by the hair. At the Poulo Condor airfield, policemen received them with more blows and threats of more harshness.

After having confiscated all the belongings of the prisoners : handkerchiefs, hair pins, medicaments, etc., the guards left them only their thin clothes in the bitter cold on the island. They were confined five in one 'tiger cage.'

This is how the prisoners live in the Poulo Condor slaughter-house : their food consists of a handful of rice with rotten dried fish or fish sauce mixed with sand and pebble. The rations of 5 are not enough for only one. They are given 3 meals in 7 hours and nothing for the rest of the day, that is 17 straight hours. In nearly 8 months, only 4 meals with uneatable raw vegetable were served to the prisoners, as a conciliatory gesture after ruthless cruelties. Sometimes the prisoners ask for more rice or water which is of course denied ; instead the warders punish them for their boldness by giving them rice mixed with kerosene and dried fish with soap. No different diet for sick prisoners.

In the tiger cages, due to lack of room, two of the five inmates lie on the cement floor and the other three on the lower part close to each other in the hot atmosphere like canned sardines. One of them has to lie close to the toilet bucket in each cage. Buckets of quick lime and sticks are always kept handy on the iron frame on top of the cell for the guards to use at will.

Goalers Ve and Tran sleep right on iron-frames, to watch the inmates round the clock.

Opposite to the tiger cages is a dump of excrement which gives out an intolerable stink. Gusts of wind constantly send into the tiger cages the smell and sand. At night the prisoners cannot sleep due to the bitter cold, mosquitoes, bugs and thirst.

Everyday, when the guards open the cages' door, clouds of flies rush in. In the darkness, bugs are crawling on all walls. After a night all the mosquitoes get so satiated with the prisoners' blood that they can hardly fly. A 5-minute bath is permitted three times a month. So the prisoners have just enough time to undress, pour a tin of water on their bodies, then to dress and the supervisors ruthlessly beat those who lag behind.

Such a regime generates many diseases : intestinal diseases, stomach-ache, diarrhoea, fever, cholera, tuberculosis, paludism, beriberi, paralysis, trachoma, vulvitis. Particularly some prisoners vomit excrement. The lack of medicaments makes things worse. When they ask for medical attention, chiefs of the guards Sum and Man, obscenely abuse them and threaten to douse them with lime-water on them.

An underground of 4m long, 3.5m wide and 3m high with thick stone walls, formerly used as a warehouse, serves now as infirmary. It is separated from the latrine by only a wall. The sick treated there have to endure the heat and the stink.

For 8 months, no prisoner was allowed to receive visitors or correspond with their families. All the prisoners' letters and parcels were checked by the supervisors. They kept back the food allegedly for security reason.

In the same period, they were splashed with quick lime twice. The first crackdown took place on the fourth day of the Tet. On orders from their chiefs Ve, Tran and Nhon, the guards beat the sick in the infirmary. While the prisoners were taking their bath, the guards and supervisors rushed them, hit them and threw lime on their bodies, seriously wounding three of them. As all the prisoners strongly protested, the guards doused them with quick lime too.

The second happened on April 28, 1970, when the women prisoners heard shouts of protest from the tiger cages of men prisoners, they joined in. Nhan and Sum ran to and fro, ordered the guards to pour bucket of quick lime on the women inmates who suffocated and got burned ; many of them fainted and vomited blood ; meanwhile the guards brutalized the sick in the infirmary. They also treated them lime. Bags of it were dumped on the floor in all tiger cages. The prison authorities did not permit the prisoners to wash their cells nor to have a bath. In nearly two months, the women prisoners had to lie on lime and without water to cool a little their faces. As it was very hot in the cages the inmates kept on them only their under clothes. The guards and their US masters walked along and looked down into the tiger cages as if they were in a zoo.

On August 3, 1970, 108 women prisoners including many sick ones from the infirmary were brought back to the mainland. Many fell unconscious when they got aboard a ship. An escort of 50 guards kept showering blows on them.

We believe that even the Hitler hordes' barbarities stand no comparison with those we suffered in Con Son.

Poulo Condor prison is simply a slaughter-house, a hell on earth."

In conclusion, the letter called on political, social and religious organizations in Saigon and progressives the world over to take strong actions to stay the murderous hands of the US-Thieu clique.

DOCUMENT ON US CHEMICAL WAR IN VIET NAM PUBLISHED IN STOCKHOLM

The United States used 90,000 tons of killer chemicals in the Viet Nam war between 1965 and 1970, the biggest single application of chemical warfare since the First World War, said the Stockholm international Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

In a six-volume report on *The Problem of Chemical and Biological Warfare* (SIPRI) said that of the 90,000 tons of chemicals that the US used in Viet Nam, most were anti-plant agents. But the report noted that up to 10 per cent of the South Vietnamese population had been sprayed directly with them.

The tonnage figure is the highest since 110,000 tons of anti-personal chemicals caused well over a million poison gas casualties in World War One, the report said.

It also quoted studies as saying that 20 per cent of South Viet Nam's forests of saleable hardwood had been sprayed, resulting in an estimated loss of 500 million dollars in timber.

The effects of chemical and biological weapons were "only poorly predictable in many situations, particularly when directed against large targets and may be uncontrollable", "the overall destruction which they might cause could far exceed expectation," and "the extent to which they would magnify the consequences of an ill-considered or irresponsible military act is thus too enormous to be tolerated," the report said.

GI BRUTALIZES SAIGON WORKERS

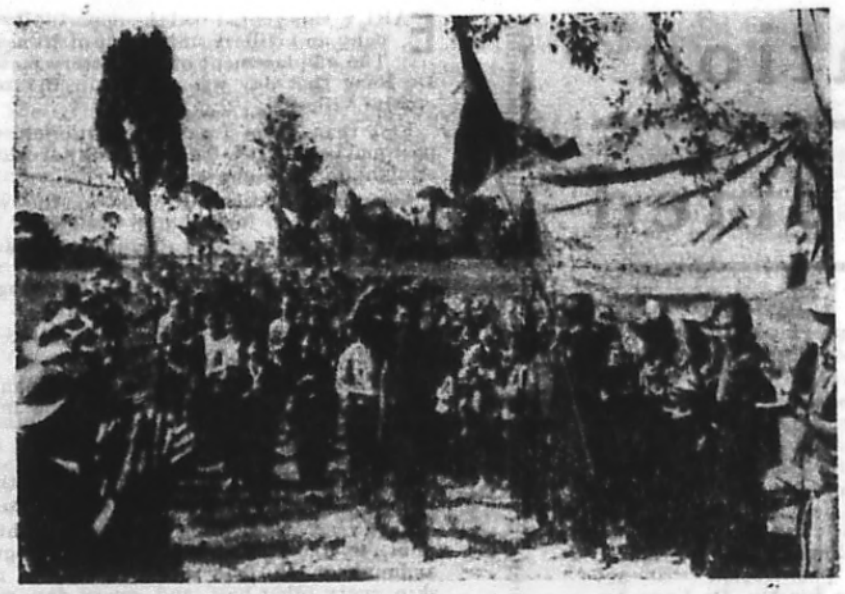
The Trade Union of Vietnamese workers at American restaurants, hotels and billets in Saigon — Gia Dinh on November 24 sent an urgent letter to the American superintendent of the USAHAC in Saigon urging him to punish the American sergeant at the "Pax" billet for outraging two Vietnamese maids.

On November 15, an American sergeant took liberties with a woman worker named Huynh Thi Thu. As she resisted, he pushed her into a corner and beat her brutally. Hearing her cries, Tran Thi Nham, another maid who happened to work next door, came to her help. The American sergeant also beat her up and twisted her arm...

The deputy-Secretary General of the Saigon Federation of Trade Unions has urged that the culprit be punished and security be guaranteed for the Vietnamese personnel working in the American residential compound.

The Federation warned that all the 1,000 workers at the American restaurants, hotels and billets in Saigon and Gia Dinh would stage a protest strike if the abovesaid American sergeant were not punished and similar cases were allowed to recur.

IN OUR LIBERATED ZONE



In liberated villages hundreds of youths joining the PLAF on their way to the front line

THE PRG Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and War Wounded recently held the first Conference on therapy. According to a report by Dr Hoang Vinh Hung the treatment network of the Liberation medical service has been set up from the central down to the village level. All the villages under People's Revolutionary Committees have their medical workers, 70 % of them have medical stations and maternity houses; infirmaries exist in all districts, and hospitals in all provinces. The village civilian health system keeps developing.

The report also said that in the process of treating militants, combatants and the population, the Liberation medical branch had acquired abundant war experience.

As regards guidelines for future tasks, the conference held that in the present resistance situation, the medical personnel should adequately illustrate the superiority of the Liberation health service and resolutely do away with the reactionary influence of that of the quisling administration.

— Cultural and educational work in Darlac province is progressing. Literacy classes, complementary and general education, and the training of teachers among local minority people have registered encouraging headway. For instance, in the 10th district, despite frequent enemy incursions and artillery shellings of schools, teaching and learning is going on regularly. In several places, a few days after a raid everything returns to normal thanks to the dedication of both teachers and pupils' parents.

In the past 18 months the provincial normal school trained 50 primary school teachers.

— The 3rd congress of elite fighters of the East Nam Bo logistic branch has just ended. Nearly 100 liberation medals were awarded by the PRG to model units and 242 others to individuals for their distinguished services in the past several years.

— In a newspaper article on the 11th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam Peasants' Liberation Association, Nguyen Van Sieu, its secretary, highlighted its rapid growth, and the important role played by the peasantry in the resistance against foreign invasion in Viet Nam's history. Nguyen Van Sieu called on the peasants to make greater efforts, in order to serve as a fundamental revolutionary force by developing production, pushing up the drive for power, and expanding and consolidating the liberated zone, thereby contributing a substantial part to the foiling of US-puppet "Vietnamization."

Youth and women's resistance activities reviewed

— According to a report by the Liberation Youth Union of Quang Da province, in the last 10 months young people of both sexes in Hoa Vang, Dien Ban, Duy Xuyen, Dai Loc and Duc Duc districts had, together with the local population, forced enemy troops out of tens of garrisons, demolished many "strategic hamlets" and other concentration centres, and freed about ten thousand families. The territory thus liberated included several villages joined in a single stretch.

— Another report by the Liberation Women's Union of My Tho province said that during the same period, as a result of a fierce struggle to wrest back control in several villages and hamlets, a large number of women had returned to the libererated zone and were credited with brilliant resistance records. After studying together the exemplary way the late heroine Le Thi Hong Gam (native of My Tho) lived and fought, well over a thousand volunteered to join guerilla units, or work-exchange teams to boost production.

— The Liberation Women's Union of Can Tho province met in early November to review its activities since the beginning of the current year. According to a report submitted on this occasion, in many areas, particularly in Long My, Phung Hiep, O Mon, Chau Thanh A, Chau Thanh B districts and along Route 4, women scored outstanding successes in preventing the enemy from burning houses, wrecking orchards, plundering foodcrops and herding the population into concentration centres. They joined forces with guerillas to defend their native villages, People's Revolutionary Committees and their countrymen's property.

in the cities

• Only one and a half days (beginning from Nov. 15) after Thieu proclaimed his "new economic and financial policy" in Saigon Cholon - Gia Dinh commodity prices shot up sharply and a shortage of goods of primary necessities was felt. The prices of meat, fish, eggs increased by 30%, of medicines by 50%, of condensed milk by 26%. In Saigon and its vicinity the cost of a 100-kg bag of rice rose by 8,000 piastres, in Hue that of a 45-kg bag of US rice soared from 1,950 piastres to 3,000 piastres.

• In this connection, the paper *Duoc Nha Nam* (Viet Nam torch) wrote: "With their fixed, low salary, the majority of civil servants and employees of private firms will find it hard to subsist, and most of the people will have a tough time." On Nov. 18, the *Market Stabilization National Committee* of the Thieu regime announced that death penalty would be inflicted upon anyone who complained about the situation and that those contravening the Administration's regulations would be sentenced to forced labour, or deprived of their licences, or have their firms, shops... closed down.

• The *Tin Sang* (Morning News) denounced in its Nov. 11 issue the Quang Ngai (Central Trung Bo) provincial puppet authorities embezzlement of relief goods meant for storm-stricken people. It termed all Thieu's "relief" organs as "nests of corruption" whose only role was to aggravate the lot of cyclone victims and drive thousands of families into direr straits.

• It was disclosed by the "Governor of the Saigon National Bank" that for a year now Thieu has had 27 billion piastres in 1,000-piastre bank-notes printed in advance and that from Nov. 20, 1971 on this amount of banknotes would be used to pay the salaries of armymen and civil servants.

• The French news agency *AFP* reported from Saigon that in the last ten days (from Nov. 10 to 20, 1971) the Thieu administration again seized 40 issues of Saigon dailies. The *Dien Tin* (Telegraph) owned by a Saigon opposition MP which had been forced to suspend publication for three months, was confiscated on Nov. 20, the date of its reappearance.

• In Saigon, the *Di Toi* (Forward) Publishing House of the South Vietnamese Students (in US - Saigon - controlled areas) recently published the book *The Work of a Novelist* by Nguyen Dinh Thi, secretary general of the Vietnamese Writers and Artists' Union. In a foreword to the book, the Publishing House wrote: "We all are Vietnamese of the same Fatherland, and the same nation, whether we are living in the South or the North. One day will come when all Vietnamese of both zones will join hands in all sincerity to build the country. We hope that that day is nearing. In introducing this work we wish to make a modest contribution to the fulfilment of this common desire."

• The Saigon *Tin Sang* (Morning News) reported in its Nov. 13 issue that the Buddhist Section at Buu Son Ky Huong recently sent an open letter to Nguyen Van Thieu flaying his "immediate cease-fire" proposal based on his "four-nay" position. The letter pointed out that should Thieu genuinely want peace to be restored he must at once do the following:

— Oust all US and "allied" troops from South Viet Nam in the shortest time and in accordance with a clearly set timetable.

— Free all political and other prisoners detained in South Viet Nam jails.

— Demobilize extensively and rapidly the armed forces and achieve a broad democratization.

• On Nov. 13, a Saigon MP raised his voice for a reduction of war budget and a cut-back of troop strength as an important saving measure.

"Pacification" irremediably doomed

PLAF gunners' accuracy sows fear amongst US-Saigon soldiers

ALL these past years, the American imperialists and their Saigon agents have been bending their efforts on the implementation of their pacification program under different appellations: prosperity-zone and agricultural settlement scheme in 1955-1960, strategic-hamlet project in 1961-1963, new-life hamlet plan in 1964-1965, destruction and pacification strategy in 1966-1967, accelerated pacification in 1968-1969, special pacification in 1970. Since mid 1971, it has been dubbed "rural defence and regional development plan" for the realization of which the Americans have had to spend at least a billion dollars (*AP*, July 4, 1971).

Washington regards rural pacification as a strategic matter, one with vital importance for its neo-colonialist policy in South Viet Nam. It is both a measure and an objective of aggressive war. So long as the US imperialists pursue their aggression, they continue to stick to pacification and will spare no effort to bring it to fruition. For unless it succeeds, they will not be in a position to rule over South Viet Nam and make it a military base and a neo-colony of theirs. While Nixon is Vietnamizing the war, particular emphasis is laid on pacification as the main strategic measure of Vietnamization.

They have set up 800 pacification units of 44,000 men placed under the direct command of 7,400 American "advisers." 50% of the activities of the US expeditionary force and 80% of the Saigon army's have been mounted to support pacification. According to Pentagon data understandably far below reality, from early 1969 to August 1970 the Americans used more than 2,130,000 tons of bombs and 2,290,000 artillery shells, mostly in South Viet Nam; the number of civilian casualties in 1970 alone reached at least 275,000 among them from 25,000 to 35,000 killed (US specialists say that as from the start of the "limited war" in January 1965 the US let off over 12 million of bombs and bullets half of which at least since Nixon entered the White House). In dozens of thousands of raids, the enemy shrank from no medieval methods to herd civilian into concentration zones. Thousands of tons of noxious chemicals were sprayed to deny them their sources of livelihood. More than 6,100,000 hectares of land were exposed to "herbicides" and 1,500,000 people were affected of these thousands mortally. A plan was worked out early this year to displace the inhabitants of some provinces south of the 17th parallel, to turn these into "free-fire areas."

First and foremost, the contradiction between its objectives and the measures employed. The enemy want to win over the population and then pit them against the revolution but their military, political, economic and cultural methods, however, have greatly harmed the masses. If formerly Ngo Dinh Diem boldly declared he "braved hatred and revenge to build strategic hamlets," now the dictatorial, fascist ruling clique headed by Nguyen Van Thieu is calling for pacification "at any cost." Mass slaughters like Son My, Ba Lang An, Kong H'Ring in pacification areas just as ruthless repression in urban centres recently have unmasked Thieu and his associates as a gang of butchers of their countrymen and of traitors to their nation. Patriotic by tradition, the South Vietnamese people who have been fighting against colonialism and neo-colonialism for a quarter-century, will neither submit nor be duped. The quisling political and economic tricks are betrayed by their own extremely wicked military measures, a contradiction which keeps widening with each passing day.

The efforts of the US aggressors and their valets are plagued by another great flaw — the clash between their too ambitious intention and their limited, weakening strength. The present pacification program aims at enlisting the support of the people, wrecking revolutionary bases and thereby securing a strong posture on the battlefield. Now the main forces to carry out pacification are those of the Saigon army. Moreover, they have not only to replace the withdrawing US troops but to bear the brunt of the battle as the core of the other Indochinese quisling forces. Though more numerous than before, they show a sagging morale, are organizationally heteroclite and poor in quality, particularly after their reverses on the Highway 9 — Southern Laos and, lately, Northeast Cambodia fronts. Regional troops engaged in pacification and entrusted with the task of coping with guerilla warfare, have proved too feeble. Hurled against the rural areas — the powerful rear base of the resistance, the Saigon pacification forces have been spread thin, soundly beaten, and have declined both morally and organizationally. This state of things, too, has been aggravating under the impact of the successes of the South Vietnamese people and liberation forces.

SINCE Tet 1968 the enemy have been frantically counter-attacking to get out of their bad fix. But counter-pacification actions have been assuming an ever more conspicuous mass character. Uninterrupted and powerful, they have been devasting. In 1970, with more than 7 million participations and the support of the Liberation armed forces, the population pulled down well over a thousand "strategic hamlets" and other concentration zones. As compared with 1969, the number of attendances in uprisings and actions to seize power increased by respectively 2 and 3 times. In the first six months of this year counter-pacification drives have further gained in scope and strength, especially after the Highway 9—Southern Laos victory. The population and their armed forces have recovered control over large areas in Central Trung Bo, the Western Highlands and the Mekong Delta. Remarkably enough, in some provinces, within a month, more than 100 "strategic hamlets" have been brought under control. In east Nam Bo counter-pacification has made momentous progress, reaching into the neighbourhood of Saigon, many of the areas listed by the enemy as "pacified." The latter have admitted that their "territorial forces" are not equal to thier task of dealing with guerilla warfare at the grassroots level. They are worried by the fact that the majority of the people are "against the government," that security has alarmingly worsened, and that in spite of 50,000 Americans killed in action and 10 years of defoliation and bombings, no route is secure at night and less than 5% of villages enjoy security (*AP*, Sept. 23. 1971).

The people of South Viet Nam have step by step checked, beaten back and frustrated pacification. The situation is evolving most favourably for them. More propitious conditions will doubtless emerge, helping them to score bigger successes in this field and ultimately contribute to completely baffle "Vietnamization."

THANH HONG

Near the U.S. DA NANG base

EARLY this year, I had the opportunity to accompany an artillery unit in one of its assignments. The emplacement of the battery poised against Da Nang that day was set up in the centre of a coastal village.

Less than 300m from the battlefield was a US post and behind it a high watch-tower which peered straight into the gun site.

Cong entered the battlefield in the wake of a scouting team. Before him walked a well-built fighter with a heavy head and sun-bleached hair. Cong cast his eyes around and saw his men's silhouettes quickly and silently scattering to their fixed places. He whispered to me:

"It was a hard job finding a place like this. It's thanks to Nghieng."

He then pointed to the well-built man who was bending down to look for something in the wild grass and said:

'That's him...'

Cong was the political commissar of the unit, a tall boy with bright and thoughtful eyes.

Last year, Nghieng, some other fighters and I went to receive an emergency consignment of ammunition. We had to stage a forced march and skip every other halt and every day we reached our halt late in the night. Once as we were going down a slope the last leg of the day's trip, we saw a sturdy man, with long hair and wearing a faded uniform, coming up, leaning on a stick.

"At first we thought that his slow motion was perhaps due to the heavy burden on his back. But in fact, he just took it easy unmindful of the descending nightfall."

When near us, this strange porter stopped, and in the mongrel Vietnamese of a Thuong minority national, he cheerfully greeted us like a long-absent relative:

"Good evening comrades."

"Only when taking a close look at him could we realize that the man was blind. He was toting on his back two big shells which gleamed in the darkness.

Putting my hand on his shoulder, I asked him:

"It is getting dark, wouldn't you like to take a rest?"

'Well, for me,' he answered with a smile, "night and day are alike. This morning I already made a trip. This afternoon I managed to make another. They are in a hurry you know, so we'd better make haste ourselves..."

When a child, he could see, they say a 'Ka tu'* eyes can see through the night. With such eyes, he had seen through the night. With such eyes, he had seen his parents do farm work and make pointed stakes, he could spot at once the foot prints of a small fox running on rotten leaves, and knew his way about in dense forests.

"In 1958 and 1959, with his sharp eyes, this 'Ka tu' boy found out a place to conceal a cadre wanted by the enemy. After hiding him in a thick bush of rattan on a high hill, he went down to watch the adversary movements. But as soon as he reached the slope foot, the enemy suddenly rushed in and captured him. They threatened the boy with shots fired close to his ears.

'Where have you hidden your man?' they asked.

'I've hidden no one. I was only nesting.'

'These are your footprints, aren't they?'

'I was treading on a fox's footmarks?'

The enemy commander ordered the boy to stand akimbo. He whipped out his pistol, and dotted with shots the ground around his little feet. After emptying 7 magazines, without getting any information from the little boy, the wicked thug furiously kicked him down with his huge boots. In his fall, his bow was thrown off.

'You are not scared, you little Viet Cong?' the ruffian grumbled.

'Certainly not,' the boy replied while stretching out his hand to recover his bow and got on his feet. Maddened with rage, the bravo held out his white hot revolver, took aim at his eyes and roaring like a wild beast thrusted the pistol's barrel into the boy's innocent and limpid eyes..."

"From those 'Ka tu' eyes two streams of blood spurted," Cong went on. "And each time I tell this story, I see this heart-rending scene again in my mind's eye!" Meanwhile, Nghieng again and again sighed and said he was thinking of his native village.

After a short pause, Cong continued:

"The 'Ka tu' eyes are no more..., but the earnest desires of the 'Ka tu' boy as yours and mine are still there.

Till one day, as you still remember, they burst out and could be seen everywhere, in any corner of the mountainous areas, on the road where waves of people were flowing and even on small hand-written slogans: 'All for the people's power.' That day, the 'Ka tu' boy was already a sturdy youngster, he went to the Resistance Committee and briefly said: 'Let me carry ammunition for the army, please.'"

CONG muttered into my ears some words about his battlefield tonight, I thought if he were not going to fight, he would continue his yarn for hours.

The first job Nghieng had to do after coming to the battlefield was to look for a stake he had planted on the ground to mark the position of the gun support and another at the foot of a bamboo grove, the firing direction. After that, he returned to show the army porters in.

The most majestic and moving moments of battles are these scenes: a stream of people, a long and heavy shell on every two men's shoulders, arrived at the site. They were panting from exhaustion, their feet deep in the muddy earth.

Who were among the crowd? Nghieng did not know them all, but on seeing their gestures or hearing their voices, he could immediately identify those whom he had once met. Then reminiscences on his native village flashed into his mind. He guessed that his father, his mother, his uncle or his aunt and his sister had been mobilized for the same job. Nghieng felt deeply moved and greatly inspired at the thought of the ideal that motivated all of them. When seeing the carriers, he said:

"Here you are, uncles and aunts."

"Is that you, Nghieng? Have we arrived?" asked an old woman, marching in front of the crowd.

"Yes, auntie," Nghieng replied. The old woman and a girl walked up with their shell and Nghieng helped them put it down on a patch of grass. The woman straightened herself and wiped drops of sweat off her forehead. She whispered into Cong and Nghieng's ears:

"This is for the last wave of assault!"

Then, scores of other shells one after another were softly laid down. The glittering heap continued to spread far on the ground. Nghieng took out from his pocket a bit of cloth to clean them.

Nghieng was a member of the unit's scouting team. This battle was his 22nd engagement.

Nghieng had been here once to prepare a battleground. The village's ricefields had long been devastated. He thought he was crossing a desert and walking on a huge grave-yard under which the whole village's population was buried.

5 years ago, Nghieng was a boy of 13. He was plump and had a big head and sun-bleached hair. With a rubber-string catapult constantly hung across his chest, he spent all day long playing on the sandy ground. On quiet days, he went fishing on the shore. On windy days, as flights of white-feathered birds left the islet for the sea side, Nghieng laid snares. Sometimes he went into the hamlet to catch crabs.

Nghieng's father was an old fisherman. His hard and dangerous life had greatly affected him. He was a bad-tempered and rough man. Since his wife was swept away by the waves during an oyster-catching trip, he had been a broken man. He took to alcohol and got drunk all day long. Tormented by grief and sorrow, his temper was eventually mollified. He no longer shouted at his boy and looked after him with most tender care.

Nghieng was the baby of the family. Since he began toddling till he could follow his father in his fishing trips, Nghieng spent more time with his mother than with his father. He had benefited much from her love and human qualities: he had learned to always speak in a low and soft voice, to be modest, to remain calm in face of difficulties and persevering and brave before hardships...

Then, the US expeditionary troops came to their native village.

One morning, Nghieng ran back from the shore and told his father:

"The Yanks have arrived in Da Nang, daddy!"

"Yes, they all come there, yesterday the French and now the US."

Once, Nghieng scampered with other children to Da Nang to see the GIs. He then returned and cried out to his father right from the garden's gate:

"They all are red, dad."

Later the village held a ceremony to take an oath to resist yanks. Nghieng was admitted to the Pioneers' Group, and his father, being familiar with the handling of handgrenades and charging of cartridges, enlisted in the white-haired army.

IN October that year, Nghieng's father was chosen as a front supplier for an emergency campaign. Moving stories about him were later told to Nghieng by his villagers:

"One day while his group was loading ammunition across a river, an adverse artillery shell suddenly exploded near his boat, overturning it and sending a big shell aboard to the bottom. Though the river section was deep and near a waterfall, and despite the cold of late December, he dived and retrieved the thing. After succeeding in taking it out of the water, he quivered and his lips turned violet from cold. But he patted the shell and said:

"Boy, you have given us much trouble. You can fly but you can't swim. Next time, I shall get you two duckfeet. On the Quang Da battlefield, if you don't know how to swin, you may get drowned one day."

As D. Day was nearing and they were one day off the delivery place, and a few members of his group suddenly got sick, the old veteran proposed that 2 shells be carried by 3 men instead of 4 as previously. He volunteered to walk between two groups and help carry two shells on both shoulders.

Next morning, after all the front suppliers left for home, Nghieng's father went to see Cong and insisted:

"Commander, members of my group have commended me as an outstanding front supplier, and the unit has given me a certificate of merit but I don't want any of that. If possible, please give me this reward..."

"What, uncle?" Cong asked.

"Let me stay to see the shelling with my own eyes. I have not seen any...," the old man said. As Cong could not persuade him to go, he had to discuss the matter with other officers. Finally, the request was complied with.

Next morning, due to a last minute change, the unit had to postpone the offensive for one day. Suddenly, the enemy troops mounted a raid in the area. They erected barbed wire fences and divided the hamlets into sections to search for underground trenches. The old man suddenly rushed out and lay down on a mine which the enemy was to explode near a bamboo grove where the shells were hidden, lest its detonation might trigger the latter's explosions.

So Nghieng's father fell in the courageous act. He was stabbed in his chest by an enemy bayonet, died, and his simple desire was not satisfied.

Cong's unit was later deployed into the sandy area. The fighters had many opportunities to pay their last respects to the deceased. When meeting Nghieng, Cong repeated the words his father had once told him: "I still have a young son. I shall let him join an artillery unit so as to see him in action."

Four years had passed. Nghieng grew up with the same sun-tanned complexion, the same big and heavy head and bleached hair, but taller and sturdier. The past events remained engraved for ever on the heart of this scout.

After hearing reports, the military commander went around and came to the place where the signal light was hanging. He bent down, and with his screwed-up eyes, tried to take aim at the adverse position through gunner number one's sight.

"All right," he said to Cong.

Then the latter and he went to meet every gun crewman.

Cong thought that the political commissar must know how to conjure up in his men all images and remembrances of the past. He was eager to find in the unit's valuable moral heritage a source of enthusiasm and inspiration.

In this solemn minute, Nghieng stood ready at his position. It was the bushy roots of an old banyan, the only remaining fortification in the village. With an AK in his hands, Nghieng was assigned to deal with enemy helicopters which flew in for a strike.

"Fire!"

The gun crew pressed the trigger, doing the last but fiercest and happiest job to visit a long-awaited revenge. Another thunderous detonation was heard, and the sky was illuminated.

After gunner number one had quickly retaken aim and other crewemen readjusted the gun's position, another "go" order was given.

The enemy targets comprising the petrol dump, the ammunition storage, barracks, and airports were hit and went up in flames.

A DK shell suddenly fired from the enemy post hit the banyan trunk, sending fragments to all parts and blasting Nghieng down.

Cong hurried to him and asked:

"Nghieng, are you hurt?"

But Nghieng already jumped to his feet and riveted his eyes on a flight of choppers which were whirring in.

"Nothing serious," Nghieng replied with the same coastal accent as the old man's.

A smile appeared on Cong's lips.

NGUYEN CHI TRUNG

* *A SVN ethnic minority.*

THE DRVN PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATION'S VISIT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

AT the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the Government of the People's Republic of China, the delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam led by Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Premier of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, paid a friendly visit to the People's Republic of China from November 20 to 27, 1971.

During its visit to China, the delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam toured Peking, Shanghai and Canton, made extensive friendly contacts with workers, people's commune members and liberation army commanders and fighters and was accorded a most enthusiastic welcome and grand reception by the Communist Party of China, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the fraternal Chinese people.

Mao Tsetung, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, met Premier Pham Van Dong and all the other members on the Vietnamese delegation and had a most cordial and friendly conversation with them.

The Chinese and Vietnamese sides held talks on the strengthening of the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, the situation in Viet Nam and Indochina resulting from the US imperialist aggression and questions of common interest to both sides.

On November 25, Pham Van Dong, Premier of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and Chou En-lai, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China signed a joint communiqué.

On the Vietnamese and Indochinese situation, the joint communiqué pointed out:

"At present, the situation in Viet Nam and Indochina is excellent. In the face of the US imperialist expansion of its war to the whole of Indochina, the Vietnamese people and the peoples of Laos and Cambodia have strengthened their unity and are firmly resolved to fight and defeat the US imperialist aggressors and their lackeys. On the basis of the tremendous victories scored in the past few years, many new and comprehensive victories of strategic significance have been won since the beginning of this year on the different battlefields of Indochina and the struggle of the Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples against US aggression and for national salvation. These victories of the Indochinese people have inflicted a serious defeat upon the policy of "Vietnamizing" the war and the "Nixon doctrine" applied in Indochina, thus creating a new situation most favourable to the fight of the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia."

"...The Vietnamese side declares the following: in order to realize the testament of respected and beloved President Ho Chi Minh and develop the victories already won, the Vietnamese people are determined to overcome all difficulties and hardships, take the initiative to launch attacks, persevere in and promote the struggle on the military, political and diplomatic fronts, thoroughly defeat the US imperialist scheme of "Vietnamizing" the war, liberate the South, defend and build up the socialist North and proceed to the peaceful reunification of their Fatherland, and thereby to contribute to the defence of Asian and world peace. Loyal to the Joint Declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese peoples, the Vietnamese people will fight shoulder to shoulder with the Lao and Cambodian peoples to firmly and thoroughly shatter the "Nixon doctrine" in Indochina.

The Chinese side reaffirms the following: to support and assist the Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples in their war against US aggression and for national salvation is the unshakable established policy of the Chinese Communist Party and Chinese Government, and the unshirkable internationalist duty of the Chinese people. As long as the US aggressors do not stop their interference and aggression against Indochina, as long as the three Indochinese people's sacred national rights are not realized, the Chinese people will go on performing their internationalist duty. The Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples are resolved to fight the war of resistance to the end, the Chinese people are determined to support them to the end. In order to support and assist the Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples in their war against US aggression and for national salvation, the Chinese people have long since made every preparation and will not flinch even from the greatest national sacrifices."

The joint communiqué continued:

"...The Indochina war was caused by US aggression and it will end only with the United States stopping its aggression and all its interference in the Indochinese countries. The two sides firmly demand that US imperialism immediately stop its war of aggression against Indochina, stop carrying out the "Nixon doctrine" there, withdraw totally and unconditionally the US troops and vassal troops from Indochina, and immediately stop all its military activities against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and other Indochinese countries, that it must stop all its interference in the Indochinese countries, and that it must completely stop using its puppet cliques in South Viet Nam and Cambodia and the rightists in Laos to oppose the Indochinese people, so that the peoples of the Indochinese countries may settle the affairs of their respective countries independently and free from foreign interference.

The two sides positively affirm that the 7-point solution put forward by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam provides the correct basis for the peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam question. The two basic points in it are:

1. The US government must completely stop its aggressive war in Viet Nam, put a complete end to the "Vietnamization" policy, withdraw totally and without condition all troops, military advisers and personnel, weapons and war materials of the United States and of other foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam, liquidate all the US military bases in South Viet Nam, put an end to all activities of US air and naval forces and all other military acts against the people in both southern and northern parts of Viet Nam.

2. The US government must respect the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, withdraw support from, and relinquish all its commitments to the fascist Nguyen Van Thieu clique, stop using this clique to oppose the South Vietnamese people, so as to pave the way for the formation in Saigon of a new administration favouring peace, independence, neutrality and democracy and willing at all times to enter into serious talks with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam with a view to establishing a broad national concord government in South Viet Nam."

On November 28, Giai Phong Press Agency broadcast an editorial to welcome warmly the successful visit to the People's Republic of China of the delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam headed by Premier Pham Van Dong. The editorial said:

"The splendid success of the historic visit strongly expressed in the joint communiqué has further affirmed the unanimity of views between the Vietnamese people and the fraternal Chinese people and contributed to the strengthening of the friendship and militant solidarity between the two countries."

Finally, it concluded:

"The South Vietnamese people wish to express their sincere and profound gratitude to the fraternal Chinese people for their wholehearted and unreserved support and assistance to our people's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation. To be worthy of this great and powerful support from the Chinese people, the South Vietnamese people and the Liberation Armed Forces are determined to stand shoulder to shoulder with their countrymen and the other peoples in Indochina, overcome all obstacles and continue their concerted offensives and uprisings to realize the sacred teaching of great President Ho Chi Minh: *"As long as a single aggressor remains in our country we must fight on to sweep him away in order to liberate the South, defend the North and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of the country, coordinate with the peoples and armed forces of Cambodia and Laos in the fight to drive the US imperialists out of the Indochina peninsula."*

the DRVN in brief

o The DRVN Premier's Office recently convened a conference on the strengthening of leadership of the militia in various branches and grass roots organs of the State and in other fields of the regional defence work.

The meeting unanimously agreed that at the present juncture, all the branches and units had to continue scrupulously fulfilling the military responsibilities set by the Government's Premier.

Addressing the gathering, General Vo Nguyen Giap outlined the strategic position of regional defence work and the role of the masses' armed forces and the self-defence outfits in the anti-US pro-national salvation resistance and national defence.

o The Ministry for Higher and Middle Vocational Education has held a conference to review the assistance to the people in wiping out the aftermaths of the recent floods. Participants in the meeting discussed and assessed the results of the labour, the effects on the training and education, of University and Technical College staff members, teachers and students in the said drive, and drew experience for the schools' educational and training work.

On behalf of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, To Huu member of its Secretariat praised the achievements recorded by the establishments under the Ministry of Higher and Middle Vocational Education.

o The Ministry of Culture recently called a symposium of regional dance, song and theatrical ensembles of all North Viet Nam.

The conference highly valued the achievements in the building and development of the amateur dance and song and theatrical movement, and commended the efforts of more than 60 troupes from various provinces, cities and autonomous regions.

After confirming ever more clearly the position, function and tasks of the regional theatrical companies, the meeting proposed a number of measures aimed at raising their standard.

o At the invitation of the Viet Nam Commission for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and the Viet Nam Artists' Association, a delegation of Chinese painters headed by Kao Hung paid a visit to Viet Nam.

Vice-Premier Nguyen Duy Trinh received, and had a cordial talk with, the delegation.

o The Hanoi Feature Film Studio has just completed the shooting of the film "The Road to the Mother's Native Village."

The feature film dealing with the fight for the liberation of South Viet Nam, will be widely screened on the founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation on December 20.

The Viet Nam Newsreel and Documentary Studio has also completed the documentary "The Hung Founding Fathers."

o The Fiberboard Tile Plant of the General Department of Chemicals has succeeded in producing a new material made of compressed saw-dust.

The material has mechanical endurance, a high resistance to wear, shock and vibration and is uninflammable. It is now used to make railway carriage floors, furniture, trays... In the future, it will be widely used in the production of other articles in lieu of wood.

KHMER NATIONAL UNION FRONT AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATION VISITS THE DRVN

AT the invitation of the DRVN Government and the VN Fatherland Front Central Committee, a delegation of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the National Union Royal Government of Cambodia led by Ieng Sary, special envoy of the home-based Front and Government, has paid a friendship visit to the DRVN.

It was warmly received by Ton Duc Thang, President of the DRVN, Le Duan, First Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, and Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister of the DRVN.

It visited a number of industrial enterprises, army units and historical vestiges, where it was given a rousing welcome by the people. It also attended a welcome meeting of the Hanoi people.

On November 16, 1971, a delegation of the DRVN Government and the VN Fatherland Front Central Committee held talks in an atmosphere of militant solidarity and fraternal friendship with its Cambodian counterpart. The two parties have reached unanimity of views on the problems discussed and signed a joint communiqué.

After laying bare the US aggressive schemes and acts against the three Indochinese peoples, the joint communiqué pointed out:

"The Viet Nam problem must be settled on the basis of the seven-point proposal by the Republic of South Viet Nam Provisional Revolutionary Government. Its two crucial points are: the US government must stop its aggtessive war, end its "Vietnamization," withdraw rapidly and unconditionally all troops, advisers, military personnel," weapons and war means of the USA and countries on its side out of South Viet Nam, dismantle US military bases, call off US air naval operations in South Viet Nam, cancel its aid to the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet government; the US government must strictly respect the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people and renounce the warlike dictator Nguyen Van Thieu as a tool to carry on its "Vietnamization" of the war, in order to pave the way for the establishment in Saigon of a new administration that favours peace, independence, neutrality, democracy and serious negotiations with the Republic of South Viet Nam Provisional Revolutionary Government to found a national concord government in South Viet Nam.

The Cambodia issue must be settled according to the five-point Proclamation of March 23, 1970 by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Political Programme of the National United Front of Kampuchea. The US government must respect the independence, sovereignty, peace, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia; it must end its intervention and aggression in Cambodia, immediately, completely and unconditionally stop US and Saigon air, artillery and naval strikes on Cambodia; it must immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw the Saigon troops, and US and satellite advisers and military personnel from Cambodia; it must cut off all aid and assistance to the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak, Son Ngoc Thanh traitors in order to let the Cambodian people settle their internal affairs themselves without foreign interference. All US-puppet attempts to impose neocolonialism or divide Cambodia through any kind of compromise are nothing but tricks to prolong the aggressive war.

The two sides fully supported the March 6, 1970 five-point political solution and the April 27 and June 22, 1971 proposals of the Lao Patriotic Front. These are sound bases for a peaceful settlement of the Laos problem. The US government must strictly abide by and implement the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos; it must end its intervention and aggression, retire completely and unconditionally its advisers, military personnel and war means from Laos, completely and unconditionally stop its use of US air force, Thai satellite, Saigon and Vientiane troops to attack Laos; first and foremost it must completely and unconditionally halt its bombing throughout Laos, in order to let the Lao parties concerned settle their internal affairs betwen themselves.

So long as the US imperialists invade the Indochinese countries the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples, together with the fraternal Lao people, are determined to overcome all difficulties and hardships and impel their fight in all fields, until they recover their sacred national interests and turn the Indochinese peninsula into a genuine area of peace with independent nations-South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos following the path of independence, peace and neutrality. No cruel force, no vicious scheme of the US imperialist aggressors can divert the three Indochinese countries from the lofty goal! . . ."

Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces' New Gains

FOLLOWING the wiping out of a brigade of Lon Nol troops and the liberation of Rum Luong town on Highway 6, the Cambodian people and armed forces recorded a new gain on the Phnom Penh defence line by knocking out 4 enemy battalions and decimating another, seizing control of Toul Leap town, 16km west of the city.

It is clear from all that that the CNLAF have been on the offensive and that their combativity and fighting technique is high with clever and diversified tactical methods, they rained hard blows on the Lon Nol troops everywhere, even on the Phnom Penh perimeter.

After 3 consecutive days of assault, they fought off all the enemy reinforcements comprising several brigades, captured more than 200 men, destroyed or seized a large quantity of arms and other war materials. *UPI* reported on November 16 that the CNLAF had got hold of Toul Leap after 3 days of encirclement, and the government troops (Phnom Penh men) were killed except 7 who had fled to Som Rong.

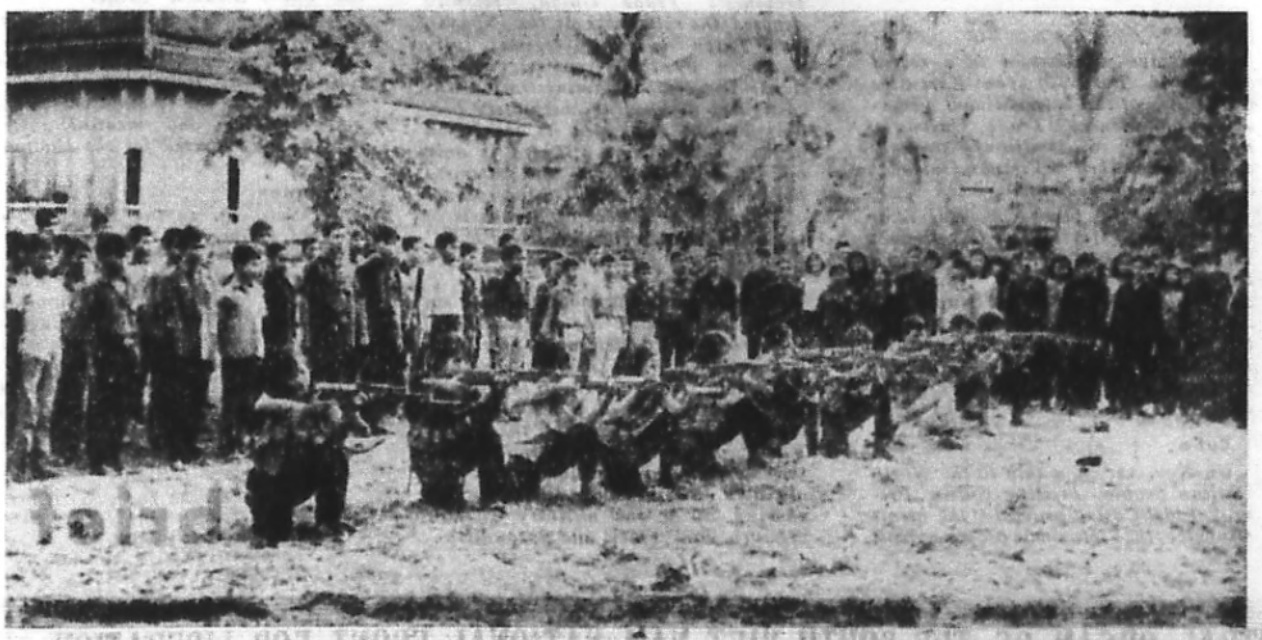
With the successes on Highway 6, the CNLAF Toul Leap victory have shaken the defence disposition of the US aggressors and their stooges in Cambodia, seriously threatened Phnom Penh and inflicted an initial setback on the enemy attempt to shift to counter-offensive so as to strengthen the city's defence. They will further quicken the downgrade of the Lon Nol troops' already sinking morale.

According to *AKI*, the CNLAF recently mounted attacks on a series of positions inside the defence line west and southwest of Phnom Penh, and intercepted 5 brigades of Lon Nol reinforcements. According to still incomplete figures, in 15 days ended November 21, 1,745 adverse troops including the whole command of Battalion 112 composed of a major and two captains, were put out of action. In terms of units, the CNLAF neatly wrote off 2 battalions and 7 companies. They also downed 6 aircraft, destroyed a bridge, captured or wrecked hundreds of firearms, 6 wireless sets and a big amount of war materials. They levelled Baset, Angkor Krut, Anlong Roméas, Toul Leap, Baku and Phum Khieu positions, and exerted strong pressure on Bat Deng and Prang Lovea positions, thus making a large breach on the defence line southwest of Phnom Penh.

Clearly enough, the CNLAF have quickly grown through the fighting and have been spreading their activities throughout the Cambodian territory. On the other hand, the Phnom Penh troops have met with ever more serious reverses. They have been thrashed in all parts, and the Saigon troops coming to their rescue also heavily battered in several places, especially on Highway 4 and in the north-eastern part of Cambodia. These setbacks have further embittered the divergence between the Phnom Penh and Saigon juntas.

The deployment of more Saigon troops to Cambodia augurs ill for Nixon's "Khmerization" of the war.

HUNG THANH



Guerilla units in Kompong Cham training to defend the revolutionary power

WORLD PRESS EXPOSES NIXON

IN the recent past, from all parts of the world progressive mankind's voice has been raised against Nixon's stubborn and warlike attitude and double-talk in his November 12 press conference.

It unanimously held that basically Nixon had brought nothing new to his old policy except the announcement of another withdrawal of 45,000 troops in the next two months and the acknowledgement of his worry on the path which he is going on. (The *New York Times*, November 17). "Like previously, the US government continues to stubbornly seek a military solution" (Czechoslovakia's *Rude Pravo*, November 16). "Washington's aim and ambition remain the same, that is to try to compel the Indochinese people to accept a US solution. Nixon still does not give up the design to achieve through "Vietnamization" what half a million American expeditionary troops have failed to gain" (Algeria's *El Moudjahid*, November 15). "The heart of the problem is that the US has on the one hand announced a reduction of troops but on the other has been intensifying its military activities" (Soviet *Pravda*, November 17).

"Now more than ever before, Nixon himself has shown his true colours as 'Tricky Dick' as some one has nicknamed him" (Finland's *Kansan Untiset*). Public opinion in Sweden commented "Nixon is a past master in selling his camouflaged political ware" (*Arbetet*, November 13), and that "President Nixon's recent efforts to hoodwink world public opinion are as sordid as his previous ones" (*Aftonbladet*, November 14).

Truly, Nixon can deceive nobody. His dark designs have been bared by people throughout the world. The latest pull-out of 45,000 GIs was aimed to appease the anti-war movement in the US, but did not mean that the Indochina war would be brought to an end (*Helsinki News*). It was only designed to serve the forthcoming [US] presidential elections and his (Nixon's—*Ed.*) other manoeuvres" (Bulgaria's *Workers' Cause*). It reflected Nixon's opportunist nature (Sweden's *Aftonbladet*).

Hsinhua News Agency remarked on November 16 that with the new troop pull-out swindle, the Nixon administration is seeking to appease world public opinion and the world and American peoples' high feeling against the US war in Viet Nam. While calling for the withdrawal of troops, Nixon also brazenly declared that it was especially important for the US to continue its air attacks on the Indochinese people, and that the US had not only resumed such air attacks but would also intensify them. He added that the US would continue using the air force to support the crumbling South Viet Nam quislings till they were capable of confronting the situation. He also dwelled on the US plan to maintain a residual force in South Viet Nam to carry on the US role. In his meaning, peace is the same as continued aggression, and it is clear that the US imperialists want to cling to South Viet Nam and turn it into a base for aggression against Indochina and Asia as a whole.

The Japanese *Asahi* wrote on November 16 that "in fact, the piecemeal troop pull-out will be carried out within a period of two months... However, Nixon has raised many points as decisive conditions for future troop withdrawals, such as a decrease in Hanoi and NFL activities, progress of "Vietnamization," a stable situation in Southeast Asia in general... This means that the US president will take any decision based on his appraisal of the situation at the moment." The *Kansan Untiset* stressed that "by setting such conditions Nixon will have pretexts to put the blame on the DRVN and NFL for obstructing a peaceful solution, and to continue intensifying the bombing raids and prolonging the war for ever." Finland's *Daily News* pointed out that "if one trusts the figures made public by the US, there will apparently remain no more GIs in Indochina. But in fact, the war is still on. Before an American soldier is to leave for home, at least 2 Asians have been trained and equipped to replace him. They will fight and die for the US interests. The US pulls out its troops but it will retain all its military bases, storages, airports, war vessels and airforce in South Viet Nam. It also declared that a residual force would be kept there. Thus, it is merely for propaganda's sake to say that the war has been scaled down. What we demand is that the US withdraw not only all its men but also all its war materials from Indochina."

But however stubborn, warlike and machiavellian Nixon may be, "he cannot fool the Vietnamese patriots. His past years in office full of defeats and desperation have demonstrated what US strength is capable of doing. It is only devastation by bombs and shells. But it cannot help settle the war. Moreover, as the spending of the US airforce has fairly weakened US economy, the intensification and prolongation of the war will drive it into an ever more serious crisis" (*Kansan Untiset*).

Progressives in the world have also condemned Nixon for obdurately maintaining in office the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu and refusing a serious response to the reasonable 7-point peace initiative of the RSVN PRG (Bulgaria's *Workers' Cause*). Nixon's statement was another "nay" to the fighting Vietnamese delegates' peace proposals submitted at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Poland's *Tribuna Ludu*, November 17). Nixon still considers negotiations a means to accept his opponent's surrender (The *New York Times*).

Asahi also criticized US failure to realize the Saigon administration's chronic and very serious disease which is its quisling nature "and recommended the US authorities to see the mistake in their war policy so as to find a genuine and lasting solution for the Viet Nam war." *Hsinhua* News Agency asserted that the American people's wave of protest against the [US] aggressive war in Viet Nam was irresistible. If the US imperialists stubbornly carried on the war, they would be encircled more tightly by the Vietnamese, Lao, Cambodian and American peoples, and would meet with complete failure.

"Support Viet Nam" collecting in Baltic Fair Rostock (GDR)

in brief

Soviet Union

A Soviet-Somalian joint statement signed on Nov. 23 on the occasion of the visit to the Soviet Union by B. Siad Barreh, President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Somaliland, reaffirmed the Soviet Union's and Somaliland's strong support for the Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples. It urged that "all US and allied forces be unconditionally withdrawn from Indochina."

GDR

On Nov. 17, General Heinz Hoffmann, Defence Minister of the German Democratic Republic handed to the Vietnamese representatives 9.3 million marks contributed by all officers, servicemen and employees of the GDR Army in support of Viet Nam.

On Nov. 19 at Hettstedt district, taking the floor at a concert opening the Month of Solidarity with Viet Nam organized by the GDR Radio, the chairman of the GDR Peace Council, Prof. Dr Gruenther Drefahl, appealed to the entire people, especially the youth, to increase solidarity with, and support to, the Vietnamese people's righteous resistance against US aggression.

At the districts of Hettstedt, Eisleben, Sangerhausen, similar concerts were given by the GDR Radio which collected 100,000 marks for Viet Nam.

France

A message was passed at a recent session in Paris of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Miners' Trade Unions — membership 6 million — strongly condemning the "Vietnamization" and the Nixon doctrine.

The French peace movement at Champigny, Marseilles, La Nièvre, Basses Pyrénées, etc., also organized teach-ins on Indochina, film-shows and exhibitions on Viet Nam, and collections of signatures and funds for the Indochinese. The Nixon administration was called on to withdraw all its troops and begin serious negotiations in Paris.

Cuba

On Nov. 12, in a talk to the North Chilean people, visiting Cuban Premier Fidel Castro praised "the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people against the US aggressors, which has been writing a most glorious page in the history of mankind." He once again renewed his call: "For Viet Nam's sake let's be ready to shed our own blood!"

Norway

Alaf Solberg, President of Sauda province's Trade Union, recently exposed the rottenness of the Nguyen Van Thieu quisling regime, fully evidenced by the recent rigged elections. The Nixon administration was castigated for having obstinately prolonged and expanded its aggression against Viet Nam. "There is only one sensible way out," the statement pointed out, "that is US acceptance of serious negotiations on the basis of the seven points of the RSVN PRG."

Denmark

The "Trade Union Conference on Indochina" with the participation of more than 70 delegates representing half-a-million members met at Fredericia from Nov. 20 to 21, and unanimously passed a resolution expressing full support to the RSVN PRG peace plan, and demanding that the Nixon administration stop at once all acts of aggression, including the shoring up of the military dictator Nguyen Van Thieu and unconditionally pull out all US and satellite troops, military advisers and war materials from South Viet Nam and Indochina.

Switzerland

An active week for Viet Nam was observed from Nov. 8 to 15 by the Support Viet Nam Committee (within the Swiss Medical Center) in such localities as Geneva, Lausanne, Zurich, Neuchatel, Bale, Lugano, La Chaux de Fonds, Delemont, Saint Gale, Bulach, etc. Film shows and exhibitions on Viet Nam were put up and medicines and medical instruments were collected for the Vietnamese.

Sweden

On Nov. 23, in the Swedish Parliament, Foreign Minister Krister Wickman severely condemned Nixon's prolonging and expanding the war of aggression against Viet Nam and Indochina. "The US Vietnamization program," he stressed, "is not a policy of peace. On the contrary it will lead to a prolonged war and inflict new suffering on the Indochinese peoples."

in brief

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION